BENGALURU, MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 21 | Humidity 63% Mostly cloudy | Sensex 77,100 | Nifty 24,056 | Gold 1,44,575 | Silver 2,23,286 | Dollar 94.33 | Euro 107.60 | GBP 124.63

TOO MUCH ON THEIR PLATE

Overworked and underpaid, Anganwadi workers now being roped into survey and verification drive of Gruhalakshmi beneficiaries

PAGE 2

POWER CENTRE SHIFTING

Govt's move to allow private participation in electricity distribution triggers fresh debate over the future of the state's power sector

PAGE 7

Foreign job dreams turn into multi-crore frauds: Police officials reveal why Bengaluru's young professionals are falling prey to overseas recruitment scams

HIRE & THROW INTO THE FIRE

Watch out for this red flag: Exorbitant recruitment fee demand

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The promise was irresistible. A high-paying job abroad, visa assistance, accommodation and a chance to build a successful career overseas. For graduates, it appeared to be the opportunity of a lifetime.

Like thousands of young Indians every year, they wanted to work abroad, earn in foreign currency and secure a better future for themselves and their families. Instead, they became victims of a sophisticated recruitment fraud that left them poorer by lakhs of rupees and shattered their dreams overnight.

The shocking case surfaced in different parts of the country after a recruitment agency allegedly collected close to ₹40 lakh from each of around 20 job aspirants, promising employment opportunities in Azerbaijan. The candidates were assured that their visas and flight tickets would be handed over a few hours before departure.

As departure day approached, excitement turned into anxiety. The promised documents never arrived. When the candidates visited the agency's office seeking answers,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"Unlike legitimate recruitment firms, scam operators often make the process appear unusually simple. They do not verify skills, conduct detailed interviews or ask candidates to undergo technical assessments. In many cases, they do not even arrange virtual interviews with the supposed employer**
>
> —Police official

Shadow corporators to the rescue

Volunteer-led network identifies, tracks, resolves civic issues; road woes and solid waste management issues top list of grievances

| Iffath.Fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As Bengaluru's civic challenges, ranging from overflowing garbage bins and damaged roads to faulty streetlights and clogged drains, continue to affect residents across the city, help is coming from an unexpected quarter. In an effort to bridge the gap between citizens and government agencies, a network of volunteer-led shadow corporators has been working to identify, track, and resolve local civic issues across the city.

According to data shared by organisers, a total of 3,286 civic issues have been tracked, of which 1,801 have been successfully resolved. The issues have been reported from 369 wards, reflecting the widespread nature of civic concerns faced by citizens.

Shadow corporators are unofficial, unelected community leaders, who actively monitor civic issues and work with residents and government departments to facilitate solutions in their respective wards. The initiative relies on citizen participation, with residents reporting problems that require attention from civic authorities.

Road-related complaints and solid waste management issues account for nearly 60% of all grievances received through

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Evergreen melodies

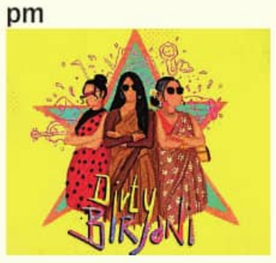
MG Sreekumar, the voice behind some of the most cherished melodies in Malayalam cinema, will be performing live, bringing the magic of his iconic hits, electrifying stage presence and nostalgia that connects generations of music lovers. Where: Forum South Bengaluru; When: August 22, 5 pm

02 Curated finds

Flo Sante 2026 offers a one-day curated shopping experience bringing together a wide range of women-led brands across fashion, jewellery, home décor, lifestyle, food and more. Where: Princess Shrine; When: July 3, 10 am

03 Play time

Madari Productions presents Dirty Biryani, a drama comedy musical that celebrates womanhood. The story follows three eccentric women who meet serendipitously, ensuing chaos and craziness as events take surprising turns. Where: Jagriti Theatre; When: July 11, 3.30 pm, 7.30 pm



04 Classical splendour

The Academy of Music (Regd), Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, is set to present 'Nrutya Rangoli 2026', a prestigious three-day national dance extravaganza celebrating the richness and diversity of Indian classical dance traditions. Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall; When: July 10 to 12

05 Instant theatre

Atta Galatta is hosting Playback Theatre Jam, a socio-improv, interactive format of theatre where audience members share real-life moments and feelings, and actors improvise to reflect back the stories, on-the-spot. Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: July 12, 4.30 pm

Anganwadi workers urge govt to ease workload

Citing excessive responsibilities, time constraints and poor pay, Anganwadi staff seek relief from added responsibilities, including SIR survey duties and verification of Gruhalakshmi beneficiaries, which they say worsen existing strain

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

File photo of protest organised by Anganwadi workers

Anganwadi workers across Karnataka have urged the state government not to burden them with extra responsibilities, saying they are already overloaded with multiple tasks. More than 60,000 workers currently manage operational centres statewide. They have appealed against being assigned additional work, including the survey and verification drive of Gruhalakshmi beneficiaries. "Anganwadi workers are already working overtime. They too have families to look after and they certainly need quality time to spend with their families. It is said the state government is contemplating to use Anganwadi workers for the survey and verification drive of Gruhalakshmi beneficiaries. We want the government to assign the survey and verification drive of Gruhalakshmi beneficiaries to the members of guarantee implementation committee," said Karnataka Rajya Anganwadi Karyakartheyaru Mathu Sahayakiyara Federation Secretary M Jayamma.

She said that most of the mobile phones given to Anganwadi workers belong to the 4G category. "The Anganwadi workers have already been struggling to upload data due to network issues. The additional work – the survey and verification of Gruhalakshmi beneficiaries – needs to be uploaded to one more app. It is not possible to have more apps on 4G phones," she said.

Highlighting technological challenges, Karnataka Rajya Anganwadi Karyakartheyaru Mathu Sahayakiyara Federation Secretary says Anganwadi staff already struggle with data uploads due to poor networks on phones provided

Nagarathna Reddar, an Anganwadi worker working in Haveri, noted that she is expected to participate in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) survey to begin from June 30. "The government's plan to engage Anganwadi workers to identify genuine beneficiaries of the Gruhalakshmi scheme will be a burden for those who are already working overtime. As of now, we are working from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. We have to visit people and handover application forms at their doorsteps as part of the SIR survey. Each one of us has to visit 500 to 1,000 households," she said. She explained that each Anganwadi worker receives Rs 12,000 per month while a helper gets Rs 7,500 per month. "We are not sure whether or not the government provides some monetary benefit for conducting the SIR survey. I am of the opinion that allocating additional work to Anganwadi workers will be a huge burden on them," she said.

MB Sharadamma, of Indian Federation of Trade Union, opined that Anganwadi workers have already been facing a lot of problems. "I suggest the government engage social workers or party workers for the survey," she said.

United fight against drug abuse

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Sunday called for a united fight against substance abuse, urging educational institutions, families, healthcare professionals and law enforcement agencies to work together to build a drug-free India.

He asserted that the campaign must begin with individuals and spread across campuses, cities and the country. Addressing the 31st Foundation Day celebrations of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences and the Nasha Mukta Bharat Conclave in Bengaluru, Radhakrishnan said substance abuse threatened not only individual health but also education, productivity, family well-being and national development. He emphasised the role of young people in leading the movement.

"The vision of Nasha Mukta Bharat is not merely the absence of drugs. It is the presence of healthy choices, informed decisions, supportive families and resilient communities," he said.

The vice president said the university had played a transformative role in strengthening health education and producing healthcare professionals. He expressed confidence that its students would spearhead efforts to tackle substance abuse through treatment, public awareness, policy advocacy and evidence-based solutions. — PTI

Campaign seeks better last mile connectivity solutions

A growing citizens' campaign is calling on the Karnataka government, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) to address one of Bengaluru's most persistent public transport challenges, last-mile connectivity. An online petition titled "Launch Mini Metro Feeder Buses & Shared E-Rickshaw: Make Public Transport Work End-to-End" has been gaining support from residents who argue that despite significant investments in metro rail and bus services, commuting remains difficult for many people once they reach a station or bus stop.

The petition highlights that while Bengaluru's Metro network continues to expand and BMTC operates an extensive bus system, a large number of commuters still struggle to travel the final stretch between transit hubs and their homes, workplaces, educational institutions or commercial centres. As a result, many are forced to rely on private vehicles, expensive ride-hailing services or long walks, reducing the attractiveness of public transport. The campaign seeks the introduction of mini feeder buses and electric feeder buses that would connect residential layouts, office districts, educational institutions and commercial hubs to nearby metro stations and major bus terminals. Residents have also urged authorities to synchronise feeder services with metro schedules and ensure high-frequency operations during peak hours.

Despite extensive network of public transport citywide, large number of commuters still struggle to travel final stretch between transit hubs and their destinations

Another key demand is the introduction of shared electric rickshaw services operating on fixed routes at affordable fares. The petition proposes designated shared e-rickshaw stands at all metro stations and major BMTC transit hubs, along with the integration of digital payment systems and public transport ticketing wherever feasible.

The campaign further recommends the creation of official last-mile mobility zones with organised pick-up and drop-off points for feeder buses, e-rickshaws and other shared mobility services. According to the petition, such measures would reduce congestion while improving commuter convenience. — BMB

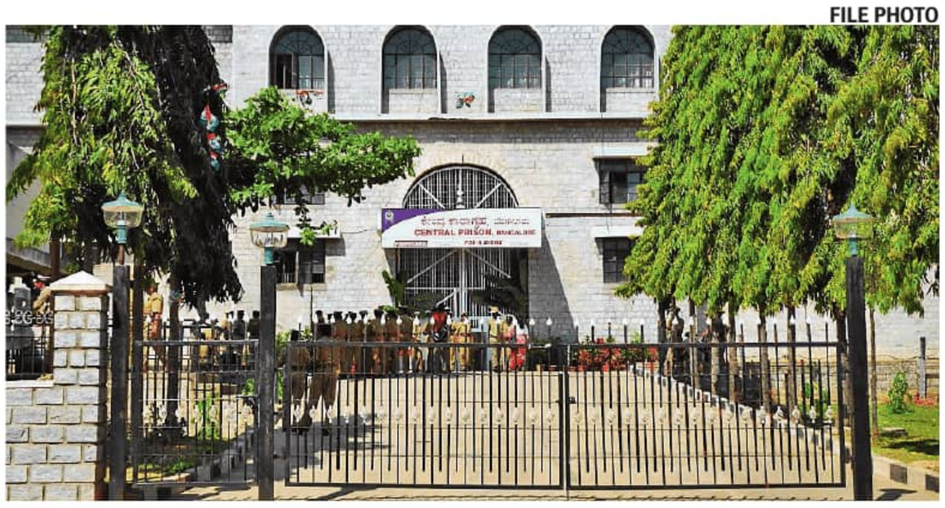
Bangalore Club elects new General Committee for 2026–27

Seated from left to right: Suman Ranganath, Vikram Bihani, Dr Pradeep M Rao, Adithya BV Setty and Virina Subbaiah; Standing left to right: Hemanth Manay C, Prithvi Padmanabhan, Kishore Rao and Shardendu Malpani

Bangalore Club, with a legacy spanning 157 years, successfully conducted elections for its new General Committee on Sunday. Dr Pradeep M Rao has been elected President, with Vikram Bihani as Vice President. Committee members include Suman Ranganath, Adithya BV Setty, Virina Subbaiah, Hemanth Manay C, Prithvi Padmanabhan, Kishore Rao and Shardendu Malpani. The newly elected team will oversee the Club's activities for the year 2026–2027. — BMB

Panel recommends CCTV cameras inside prison

Surveillance confined to corridors and entry points leaves blind spots, enabling smuggling and other organised unlawful activities inside barracks, says panel



FILE PHOTO

A high-level committee constituted by the state government to address persistent security lapses, illegal activities inside prisons and the alleged preferential treatment extended to influential inmates has submitted a comprehensive 53-point report to the Home Department. One of its key recommendations is installing CCTV cameras inside prison barracks, arguing that surveillance limited to corridors and entry points has left blind spots where illegal activities continue unchecked.

According to the panel, the absence of monitoring inside barracks has enabled the use of mobile phones, smuggling of narcotics and other banned items, intimidation of inmates and organised unlawful activities. The committee believes that extending surveillance to barracks would significantly strengthen prison security and improve accountability.

The recommendations follow repeated allegations of VIP treatment at Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, where influential inmates have been accused of accessing mobile phones, enjoying special accommodation and violating prison rules. The committee, headed by Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) R Hitendra, examined these irregularities and proposed a series of reforms aimed at improving transparency, prison management and inmate rehabilitation.

While the government has already suspended several prison officials over administrative failures and introduced measures such as a central command centre and biometric attendance systems, surprise inspections by the Prison and Correctional Services Department and the Central Crime Branch have continued to uncover mobile phones, SIM cards and narcotic substances inside inmate barracks.

The report recommends adopting practices similar to those followed in Delhi's Tihar Jail by creating meaningful employment opportunities for undertrial prisoners.

The report also advocates digital prison management, e-monitoring systems, wider use of artificial intelligence and expansion of CCTV coverage both inside and outside prison complexes.

However, the committee has cautioned that technology alone cannot eliminate illegal activities within prisons. It stressed that deeper issues such as collusion between prison staff and inmates, corruption, political and financial influence and weak technological maintenance must also be addressed. Without tackling these systemic problems, the report warns, even the most advanced surveillance measures may fail to produce lasting results. **BMB**

Encroachments cleared after social media complaint

A social media post highlighting motorcycles parked in a bus bay prompted swift action from Jayanagar Traffic Police. In a post on X, Srinivas Alavilli (@srinualavilli) highlighted alleged encroachment and illegal parking at the Jayanagar 4th T Block bus stop. According to the post, motorcycles had occupied the bus bay, while an eatery, Taaza Thindi, had allegedly encroached on parts of the footpath and roadway, forcing buses to stop awkwardly, causing inconvenience to passengers.

Responding to the complaint, Jayanagar Traffic Police cleared the motorcycles from the bus bay and shared photographs of the restored area.

While many users appreciated the prompt action, others called for stricter enforcement against recurring violations across the city. **BMB**

Man killed in road accident

A 38-year-old man, identified as Badrilal Dariya, who worked as a cleaner and spare driver for a mini container vehicle, was killed in a road accident near Sky Lagondanahalli Village Gate on NH-44 on June 27. According to Devanahalli Traffic Police, the incident occurred around 9.10 pm when the deceased was standing by the roadside after crossing the highway towards Chikkaballapura.

Police said an SUV, allegedly driven by Mithilesh M of Peresandra, Chikkaballapura, hit the pedestrian. The victim was declared dead at Akash Hospital. Police have registered a case under Sections 281 and 106(1) of the BNS. **BMB**

Delivery executive assaulted by café staff

A delivery executive has alleged that he was assaulted by the owner and cashier of an eatery in Ullal on Saturday night.

The delivery executive reportedly arrived at the café around 10 pm to collect an order that had already been marked as "Ready" on the delivery application. However, he was allegedly asked to wait.

When he questioned the staff, an argument reportedly broke out, during which the café owner and cashier allegedly assaulted him. Further investigation is underway. **BMB**

Motorist alleges misconduct at toll plaza

A motorist has alleged misconduct and threatening behaviour by staff members at Kadathanamale Toll Plaza following a dispute over a FASTag transaction. According to the complaint, the vehicle's FASTag failed to function, forcing the motorist to make a penalty payment through a digital platform. The complainant requested proof of payment, but was allegedly informed that no receipt could be provided. The motorist further alleged that the staff members behaved aggressively. Responding to the complaint, NHAI stated that the toll plaza falls under State Highway-9 and is not under its jurisdiction, adding that the matter should be addressed by the concerned department. **BMB**

ATRIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION) BENGALURU
ESTD 2000
NAAC GRADE A++
CET-E098 COMEDK-E012

WHERE **KNOWLEDGE** BUILDS YOUR **FUTURE**

25 Years of Excellence | 20+ Programs Offered | 2 Crores Scholarships Offered

Undergraduate Courses: BE
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AIML)
- Computer Science & Engineering (CSE)
- Computer Science & Engineering (Data Science) (CSDS)
- Civil Engineering (Civil)
- Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE)
- Information Science & Engineering (ISE)
- Mechanical Engineering (ME)
- Robotics and Automation (R&A)
- Quantum Computing (QC)

400+ MNCs visited On-Campus
2000+ Total offers in the last 4 years
36.5 LPA Highest Package offered

Post Graduate Courses
- MBA (Marketing, Finance, HR, Business Analytics)
- M.Tech - Computer Science & Engineering
- MCA

For Working Professional
- B.E. - Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE)
- B.E. - Mechanical Engineering (ME)
- MBA - (Marketing, Finance, HR, Business Analytics)
- M.Tech - Computer Science & Engineering

International Academic Alliances
North Eastern State University - USA
University of Birmingham - UK
Saskatchewan Polytechnic - Canada
Heriot Watt University - UK
Charles Darwin University - Australia

Anandnagar, Hebbal, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560024 | +91 70903 29032 | www.atria.edu.in

EUREKA FORBES

STOP ordinary filters from being installed in your water purifier. They fail to remove deadly contaminants such as arsenic, pesticides, mercury and lead which can cause serious illnesses, including cancer.

CHECK and ask for genuine Aquaguard Nanopore Long-Life Filters. They remove these contaminants till the last drop, so you can **RELAX** and drink pure water.

NEW
Aquaguard NANOPORE LONG-LIFE FILTERS

STOP. CHECK. RELAX.

*As per CGWB Report, 2025. Test results verified by IIT Madras.

84250 84250 OR SCAN THE QR CODE NOW,
AND GET YOUR FILTER CHECKED TODAY TO ENSURE SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR YOUR FAMILY.

Tree Expert Committee rescues hundreds from chainsaw threat

After widespread public opposition, Bengaluru's Tree Expert Committee shields hundreds of roadside trees, forcing major changes to a security infrastructure proposal inside Yelahanka's CRPF campus

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

In a significant boost to Bengaluru's urban tree cover, the city's Tree Expert Committee (TEC) has ordered the retention of nearly 90% of the trees proposed to be felled for a road development project within the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) campus in Yelahanka. In October 2025, the CRPF sought permission from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to remove 380 trees along the eastern and western boundaries of its campus for the construction of a peripheral road. Following a site inspection and a review of public objections, the TEC directed that 327 of the trees be retained on-site. The committee permitted the translocation of eight trees and approved the felling of only 37. The TEC also instructed the CRPF to ensure that the retained trees are not damaged during construction. The agency has been directed to provide an assurance that adequate protection and maintenance measures will be in place throughout the project.

Strong public opposition

While the CRPF maintained that the project is essential for strengthening campus security, the proposal faced strong opposition from residents and environmentalists. Following the GBA's public notice on the project, its Forest Cell received 616 objections, suggestions and observations, most of them from residents living around the CRPF campus. Many argued that large-scale tree felling would result in a substantial loss of green cover and adversely affect the local ecology. Residents also sought detailed environmental impact assessments and cost-benefit analyses. Others suggested alternative designs to minimise tree loss, including realigning the road to utilise existing open spaces and undertaking compensatory afforestation within the locality.

Responding to the objections, the CRPF said the proposed peripheral road is necessary for security personnel to patrol and monitor the campus's nearly seven-kilometre boundary. According to the force, the road is critical for enhancing surveillance and preventing untoward incidents along the perimeter.

Decision permits felling of just 37 trees, while environmentalists urge stricter scrutiny of future projects and stronger monitoring of compensatory plantation efforts

Environmentalists have welcomed the TEC's decision but say broader concerns remain over tree-felling proposals for infrastructure projects across the city.

"This is a significant order as many trees have been saved from felling and translocation. However, some proposals contain inflated estimates of trees marked for removal, warranting closer scrutiny," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of the Bangalore Environment Trust.

TEC orders issued between May 2020 and 2026 show over 70 infrastructure projects sought permission to remove 26,180 trees. Approval was granted to fell 17,492 trees, while 5,411 were retained and 3,287 ordered to be translocated.

Devare said the overall conservation record appears less impressive once projects with inflated tree counts are excluded, estimating that only about 20% of proposed trees may actually have been saved.

Call for greater accountability

Tree activists say the scale of tree loss in Bengaluru over the past few years has been alarming and has contributed significantly to the city's declining green cover. They argue that the TEC should play a more proactive role not only in protecting trees during project approvals but also in monitoring compensatory afforestation carried out by user agencies.

"TEC needs to ensure that every project undergoes thorough scrutiny and that the maximum possible number of trees is retained on-site. The committee should also regularly inspect and verify compensatory plantation undertaken by project agencies," said environmentalist and urban strategist Vinod Jacob.

Who reconnected these illegal street lights again?

Exclusive investigation exposes alleged misuse of influence as unauthorised decorative lamp posts, illegal power connections and glaring civic disparities spark questions over official enforcement

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Lack of street lighting remains a major concern for residents in many localities across the city. Residents often have to run from pillar to post to get new street lights installed, repair defunct ones or replace fused lamps. However, one resident, allegedly wielding political and official influence, has not only installed two decorative double-arm lamp posts barely 10 feet apart but has also allegedly drawn electricity illegally to power them.

The issue concerns a businessman on 5th Road in Nandidurg Extension, who installed the two decorative lamp posts to illuminate the road without obtaining the necessary permission from the authorities. Even more shocking, the electricity supply was reportedly restored after the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) had disconnected the illegal connection.

Ironically, several other roads in Nandidurg Extension continue to lack adequate street lighting. A double-arm street lamp located about 30 feet away from the two newly installed lamp posts requires immediate attention from the authorities. Not only is it sufficient to illuminate the stretch, but it has also been installed at an unsuitable location.

"Despite there already being two or three street lights on the stretch, the resident installed two more double-arm lamp posts, which is against the law. I had complained to Bescom engineers, who visited the spot and

Street lights within a radius of 10 feet on 5th Road of Nandidurg Extension

disconnected the electricity on June 22. Goutham, the GBA engineer in charge of street lighting, also visited the site on the night of June 21 to assess the illumination. It is shocking and disappointing to see that the lights are functioning again," said Satya Achayya, a resident.

She said Goutham spoke to the resident who had installed the street lights, and he claimed they were required due to security concerns. "The area near my garage, where there is only one street light, is frequented by suspicious individuals throughout the day and sometimes at night. I have lived with this for years and call the police whenever necessary. The two street lights on 5th Road have been reconnected since June 25. The one near my garage has not," she said. Meanwhile, Goutham said he had already directed the resident not to switch on the illegally installed street lights and had disconnected power to the poles. "He later reconnected them by drawing electricity again. He is not authorised to install these poles. We have issued a notice directing him to remove them within 15 days, failing which action will be initiated as per the law," he said. Whether BESCOM and the GBA will install street lights where they are genuinely needed while removing those erected illegally remains to be seen.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Repair soon

Bilekahalli

The damaged road stretch near Ranka Colony, Bilekahalli, on Bannerghatta Road requires urgent repairs due to its severely deteriorated surface.

Open duct

Lavelle Road

An open duct pit without a cover at the entrance to Lavelle Road, near Gandhi Junction, poses a serious safety hazard and requires immediate attention.

Road woes

Yelahanka

Residents have highlighted the poor road conditions in and around Yelahanka and are seeking urgent intervention from the authorities.

Section 67 of IT Act does not only apply to explicit sexual acts

Woman accused of filming husband raping employee, sharing video must stand trial

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Karnataka High Court has refused to quash criminal proceedings against a woman accused of filming her husband's alleged rape of an employee and later sharing the compromising video with the survivor's husband and relatives.

Justice M Nagaprasanna held that the material collected during the investigation disclosed a prima facie case against the petitioner, Jayanti G, and that the allegations warranted a full-fledged trial.

The petitioner had approached the High Court seeking to quash the case registered against her under Sections 64(1), 68 and 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with Sections 67 and 67A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

According to the prosecution, the complainant was employed as a Senior Manager at Arya Gold Company, owned by the petitioner's husband. It is alleged that the husband sexually assaulted the complainant by using deception, coercion and manipulation.

The complaint further states that the alleged abuse began after the complainant suffered financial loss to the company when Rs 7.8 lakh was transferred to a subscriber, Yogesh, for the purchase of gold ornaments hypothecated with Muthoot Finance. The subscriber subsequently became untraceable, following which the complainant was allegedly subjected to sexual exploitation.

Rejecting the plea to quash the proceedings, the High Court observed that the complaint, charge sheet and the victim's statements consistently attributed an active role to the petitioner. The Court noted that the records indicated she had allegedly transmitted the compromising material to the complainant's husband and relatives.

The Court also found the complainant's statement to be detailed and specific, describing allegations of manipulation, coercion, sexual exploitation, blackmail and the circulation of private material. It observed that the statement also reflected the emotional, psychological and social impact the alleged acts had on the complainant.

While interpreting Section 67 of the Information Technology Act, Justice Nagaprasanna observed that the provision should not be narrowly construed to apply only to explicit sexual acts. The Court said the legislative intent behind the provision is to prevent the electronic publication or transmission of obscene material used to exploit women, children or any other person, and that the expression "sexually explicit" must be interpreted in that broader context.

Man charred to death in car explosion

In a suspected case of self-harm, a man was completely charred to death inside a burning car on the national highway in Tumakuru district on Saturday, police said.

Though a forensic report is yet to be received, police suspected that the victim, identified as Nagendra (30) could have used a country bomb or a molotov cocktail to set the car on fire near Kallambella in Sira Taluk.

Before the incident, he had hit a woman inside the car with a knife on her head. She, somehow, managed to come out of the vehicle.

The car driver too jumped out of the car in order to rescue the woman and just then an explosion took place inside the car, which went up in flames in no time, they said.

According to police, Nagendra had booked a car from Siddapura near Jayanagar in Bengaluru.

Police said they got the information that Nagendra had forced the girl into the car.

As they were approaching Kallambella police station in the afternoon, the incident took place. Speaking to reporters in Tumakuru, district Superintendent of Police, Ashok K V said the police received information that a vehicle parked on the side of the highway had caught fire. Police team immediately rushed to the spot and found that the driver of the vehicle and another woman, identified as Ramya, were outside the vehicle, while the car was engulfed in flames. **–PTI**

IN HIGH COURT

Compensation to parents of accident victim raised

The High Court has enhanced the compensation payable to the parents of a 12-year-old boy who died in a road accident in 2018, increasing the total award to 20.11 lakh from the 7.87 lakh granted by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) in Karkala, Udupi.

Rakshit Kumar, a Class 6 student, was waiting with his family at a bus stop outside his school on May 20, 2018, when a tourist minibus and a truck collided. The impact caused the minibus to overturn and fall on the child, who sustained fatal injuries and died while being taken to hospital.

The tribunal had awarded 7.87 lakh with 8% interest, including 7.02 lakh towards loss of dependency. Challenging the award, the boy's parents argued that he was their only child with a promising future and that they had incurred substantial medical and ambulance expenses. The insurer, meanwhile, sought a reduction in the compensation.

A Division Bench of Justices Jayant Banerji and Tara Vitasta Ganju observed that since the award had not attained finality, the compensation could be reassessed in line with the law at the time of the appeal. Referring to the Shivaleela v. United India Insurance Company Limited ruling, the Bench noted that beneficial legislation such as the Motor Vehicles Act warrants the grant of enhanced compensation wherever legally justified. **–BMB**

Maintenance plea: Wife must establish lack of financial means

The High Court has ruled that courts cannot automatically award maintenance merely because a wife files a petition under laws such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act or the Code of Criminal Procedure. It held that maintenance can be granted only when a wife establishes that she lacks sufficient financial means to maintain herself in accordance with the standard of living enjoyed by her husband.

Justice Chillakur Sumalatha observed that courts should not presume a wife's entitlement to maintenance solely because she has invoked statutory provisions recognising such a right. The Court added that where a wife is financially independent, earns more than her husband and has no additional responsibilities such as caring for children, there is no basis for directing the husband to pay maintenance.

The observations came while allowing a petition filed by a husband challenging a trial court order directing him to pay Rs 20,000 per month as interim maintenance to his wife.

The couple married in 2024 but lived together for only two months before the wife initiated proceedings under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. She sought monthly maintenance of Rs 1,13,515, alternate accommodation and compensation, along with interim maintenance. The court found that the trial court had examined the husband's income in detail but had failed to consider the wife's admitted earnings before directing interim maintenance payment. **–BMB**

MONSOON HOLIDAYS
Explore India & Beyond
BOOK NOW & WIN FREE HOLIDAY UPTO RS.50K*
DOMESTIC HOLIDAY PACKAGES
05 Days SHIRDI - NASHIK- MUMBAI Rs. 25,000/-* PP Dep: Every Thursday
04 Days PANCHA BOOTHAM TEMPLES TOUR Rs. 19,000/-* PP Dep: Every Thursday
06 Days AYODHYA & VARANASI Rs.46,999/-* PP Dep: July 4, 25 | Aug 8, 22 | Sep 12, 26
04 Days BANGALORE - MYSORE - COORG Rs. 16,000/-* PP Dep: Every Thursday
04 Days BANGALORE - MYSORE - OOTY Rs. 15,000/-* PP Dep: Every Thursday
06 Days BANGALORE–OOTY–COORG – MYSORE Rs. 21,000/-* PP Dep: Every Tuesday
07 Days BEST OF KASHMIR Rs. 31,000/-* PP Dep: Every Thursday
06 Days HIMACHAL Rs. 19,000/-* PP Dep: Every Thursday
06 Days ANDAMAN Rs. 30,000/-* PP Dep: Every Thursday
06 Days GOLDEN TRIANGLE Rs. 24,000/-* PP Dep: Every Friday
06 Days BEST OF KERALA Rs. 21,000/-* PP Dep: Every Friday
08 Days ASSAM & MEGHALAYA Rs. 50,000/-* PP Dep: Every Friday
INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY PACKAGES
06 Days SRI LANKA-THE RAMAYANA TRAILS Rs. 41,000/-* PP Dep: Every Thursday
07 Days RUSSIA Rs. 1,90,000/-* PP Dep: Jul: 17, 31 | Aug: 07, 14, 21, 28 | Sep: 04, 11, 18, 25
08 Days BHUTAN Rs. 40,000/-* PP Dep: Sep: 05, 19 | Oct: 03, 14 | Nov :05, 13, 21
10 Days EUROPEAN HIGHLIGHTS Rs. 1,90,900/-* PP Dep: Jul: 14, 31 | AUG: 14 | SEP: 14,23 | OCT: 15
13 Days BEST OF EUROPE Rs. 2,93,500/-* PP Dep: Jul: 08, 15, 18, 29 | Aug: 01, 12, 22 | Sep: 02, 12, 14, 24 | Oct: 07, 15, 21
13 Days AUSTRALIA Rs. 3,17,000/-* PP Dep: Oct 26 | Nov 24 | Feb 1 | Mar 15
06 Days DUBAI Rs. 44,200/-* PP Dep: Every Wednesday
08 Days VIETNAM & CAMBODIA Rs. 45,800/-* PP Dep: Every Wednesday
06 Days BALI Rs. 26,000/-* PP Dep: Every Thursday
05 Days THAILAND Rs. 27,100/-* PP Dep: Every Friday
08 Days KENYA Rs. 4,07,000/-* PP Dep: Every Friday
08 Days SINGAPORE & MALAYSIA Rs. 95,600/-* PP Dep: Every Friday
Tour Cost Includes: Accommodation + Meals* + Entry Tickets* + Transfers + Local Guide + GST
WHY SKYWAY? TRAVEL NOW PAY LATER NO HIDDEN COSTS 100% Trip Protection
BOOK BEFORE 31.08.2026 GET ₹2500/-* OFF T&C Apply*
SKYWAY Your Travel Companion
SKYWAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS PVT. LTD. 32 YEARS
Recognised by Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India
Tourism House, 1st Floor, Papanna Lane, No.8, St Mark's Rd, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001. Tel: 080-22111404.
BANGALORE | CHENNAI | HYDERABAD | MADIKERI | MUMBAI | MYSORE
www.skywaytour.com • info@skywaytour.com • +91 8884 467 467

Metro double-decker plan fails key IISc test

IISc study challenges viability of Namma Metro's double-decker plan, claiming it fails key economic benchmarks and could undermine sustainable urban transport objectives

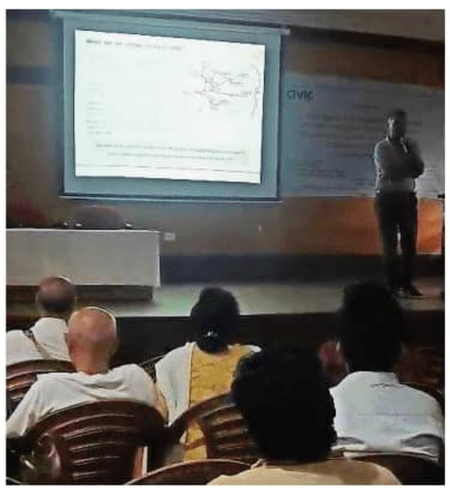
Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's double-decker project under Namma Metro Phase 3 does not meet the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' (MoHUA) evaluation criteria for social and economic impact. To gain Central approval, any project requires an Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR) of at least 14%. However, a detailed economic and environmental assessment of the project by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) shows that the EIRR for the entire project is just 5.45%. The EIRR for BMRCL's investment in the double-decker project is 9.07%.

This analysis stands in stark contrast to a draft report produced by PSU RITES Ltd. In its report, released nearly a month ago, RITES stated that the EIRR of the entire 44.65-kilometre project would be 15.9%, exceeding MoHUA's 14% benchmark. The assessment was carried out by Professor (Dr) Ashish Verma, Convenor of the IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab, and its findings were presented at a public meeting held at Gandhi Bhavan on Sunday.

The study evaluates the project using transport demand projections for 2041, comparing a Metro-only (business-as-usual) scenario with one incorporating the proposed double-decker corridor.



Experts present IISc findings challenging Bengaluru's double-decker Metro proposal at seminar

Public transport use to decline

According to the study, adding the double-decker corridor would reduce, rather than improve, public transport usage. It projects that daily Metro ridership on the Phase 3 corridors would decline from 8.09 lakh passengers in the Metro-only scenario to 7.98 lakh passengers if the double-decker corridor is introduced.

The analysis also forecasts a decline in the combined mode share of buses and the Metro, while the share of private vehicles is expected to increase. "This outcome contradicts the fundamental objective of Metro investment, which is to increase the mode share of public transport and reduce private vehicle use," Professor Verma said while presenting the study.

Higher fuel consumption and emissions

The study estimates that the double-decker corridor would increase vehicle travel, leading to over 7,000 litres of additional fuel consumption and fuel costs exceeding Rs 6.45 lakh per day. It also projects a rise in emissions, including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and PM2.5. The report further estimates that the double-decker component would raise BMRCL's Phase 3 capital cost by Rs 2,863.53 crore due to larger piers, deeper foundations, elevated stations and added integration infrastructure. Professor Verma said these costs offer no public transport benefit while imposing a long-term financial burden on BMRCL and the State Government.

Policy and planning concerns

The IISc study reviewed the MoUs and sanction letters for Bengaluru Metro Phases 1, 2, 2A and 2B, as well as Pune Metro Phase 1, and argued that the proposed double-decker corridor violates conditions for centrally approved Metro projects. It said the project encourages private vehicle use, weakens multimodal integration, raises costs beyond the approved DPR, reduces pedestrian access and promotes car-oriented development. The report also noted that the corridor is absent from Bengaluru's Comprehensive Mobility Plan and claimed no Central approval was obtained for the major change in scope. Professor Verma said the study was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in January, while residents of Indiranagar and JP Nagar presented case studies highlighting the project's local impact.

BNCC reclaims B'luru's encroached footpaths

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) will launch a citywide drive from July 1 to clear footpath encroachments and improve pedestrian infrastructure.

At a review meeting on Saturday, BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar directed officials to remove encroachments, debris and other obstructions that have made footpaths unusable. The initiative follows directions from Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

Funds have been allocated in the 2026–27 Budget to maintain 1,000 km of footpaths. In the first phase, 100 km will be taken up, with around 15 km in each division. Executive Engineers have been asked to identify stretches requiring urgent repairs.

To prevent re-encroachment, BNCC will strengthen round-the-clock patrolling with two additional Prahari enforcement vehicles and marshals. The corporation aims to create safer, more pedestrian-friendly footpaths across Bengaluru.. — BMB

Court summons Kharge, Nalapad over RSS remarks

A court here on Saturday took cognisance of a private complaint alleging defamatory remarks against the RSS by Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge and former State Youth Congress President Mohammed Haris Nalapad, and summoned them to appear before it on July 21. An Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court directed that a criminal case be registered based on the private complaint lodged in November 2025 by Tejas A, an RSS member and Bengaluru resident. Kharge and Nalapad have been arraigned as Accused No. 1 and Accused No. 3 in the case. However, the court dropped the proceedings against Accused No. 2, former minister Dinesh Gundu Rao. — PTI

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Saffron showdown

Political sparring usually occurs between rival parties, but this time it is a BJP MLA versus a BJP MP Yelahanka MLA SR Vishwanath challenged Chikkaballapur MP Dr K Sudhakar to contest as an independent from Yelahanka to prove his political strength. Sudhakar quickly responded, saying he was ready to accept the challenge, but only if Vishwanath also quit the BJP and contested as an independent. The exchange has brought the simmering differences within the state BJP into the public glare, with both leaders refusing to back down.

Watch talk

Chikkaballapur MLA Pradeep Eshwar recently alleged that Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy wears luxury watches allegedly linked to corruption. When reporters confronted him over the allegation, Kumaraswamy responded in a sharp, offbeat tone, saying, "Someone told me I am wearing a watch worth ₹80 lakh. Zoom in and check whether it looks like that. I am wearing an HMT watch." When journalists further asked about claims that he owns 70 to 80 watches at home, he brushed them aside, saying, "Let the government form an SIT and investigate it."

Strict warning

Warning Excise Department officials that he would not remain a mute witness if they tried to tarnish the government's image, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said, "If you function with dignity, the government's dignity is enhanced. If you do anything that damages the government's dignity, we will not sit idle and watch. Do not assume that the staff and officials of the Excise Department cannot be transferred to another department. If needed, there are also opportunities to bring about the legal changes necessary to carry out transfers. I am giving you clear instructions to work with great caution."

Kharge snaps

What was meant to be a celebratory event for newly appointed KPCC president BK Hariprasad briefly turned into a lesson in party discipline after AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge lost his cool over workers repeatedly raising "DK, DK" slogans during his speech. A visibly irritated Kharge stopped midway and asked whether shouting slogans would put the country in their hands, reminding the gathering that it was a Congress programme and not a meeting for any one individual. "If you keep chanting one person's name, have the rest of us come here just to sweep the floor? Useless fellows," he remarked sharply, drawing immediate attention from the audience. Stressing that there was no place for personality cults in the party, Kharge said discipline was paramount and warned that disruptive behaviour could invite strict action.

Road ritual

Bengaluru's oldest civic tradition may not be traffic jams or potholes, but digging up freshly tarred roads. As Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda joked, roads can lie for months with nothing but jelly stones and dust, attracting little interest from utility agencies. But the moment the tar is laid, somebody suddenly discovers a cable, pipeline or drain that urgently needs attention. The minister said he had been watching this phenomenon since his school days, when Ramakrishna Hegde was Chief Minister. In Bengaluru, a road apparently is not considered ready for use until it has been dug up at least once.

Not last

At the recent swearing-in ceremony of KPCC president BK Hariprasad, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah made a light-hearted but telling request to the organisers. Scheduled as the last speaker of the political session, Siddaramaiah noticed that a sizeable section of the audience had already begun leaving by the time his turn came. Taking note, he reportedly urged the organisers not to place him at the end of future programmes, saying he would rather address a full gathering than watch the crowd thin out before he took the microphone. Politics may be about numbers, but sometimes the number of people still seated in front of the stage matters most.

— Sridhar Vivan

BM SIMPLY PUT

Understanding potential privatisation in Karnataka's electricity sector

Power play

The state government's move to allow private participation in electricity distribution has triggered a fresh debate over the future of the state's power sector. Tata Power has applied to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) for a distribution licence under the Electricity Act, 2003, opening the possibility of multiple power distributors operating in the state. While supporters argue that competition can improve efficiency and reduce losses, opponents fear higher tariffs, reduced subsidies and gradual privatisation of a sector built with public investment.

What has happened in Karnataka?

Tata Power has applied to KERC under Sections 14 and 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003, seeking permission to distribute electricity in Karnataka. The Act allows more than one distribution licensee to operate using the existing transmission and distribution network owned by government utilities.

Who will decide electricity tariffs?

Even if private companies enter the sector, tariff-setting powers will remain with KERC. However, the proposed framework allows multiple suppliers to operate in the same area, raising concerns among critics that different pricing structures could eventually increase costs for consumers.

Has India tried power distribution privatisation before?

Yes. Electricity supply in India was originally managed by private companies before Independence. Kolkata became the first Indian city to witness electric lighting in 1879, followed by Darjeeling, which commissioned India's first commercial hydroelectric plant in 1897. Over the following decades, power systems expanded to Mysuru (powering the Kolar Gold Fields) in 1902, Mumbai in 1905, Bengaluru in 1905 (the first city in Asia with electric streetlights), Delhi in 1908, Hyderabad in 1910, Jamshedpur in 1911 and Surat in 1922. After 1947, governments took over electricity generation, transmission and distribution.

Which states have privatised power distribution?

Uttar Pradesh was among the first to experiment with privatisation when Greater Noida's power supply was handed to a private operator in 1993. Odisha attempted privatisation in 1999 but the model failed initially. Delhi privatised distribution in 2002 and is often cited as a successful example. Inspired by Delhi's experience, Odisha again privatised distribution in 2020. The Centre handed over power distribution in Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli to private operators in 2022, followed by Chandigarh in 2025.

Where do private electricity distributors currently operate?

Private distribution entities securely manage electricity operations across multiple regions, including Delhi, Kolkata and all four distribution zones of Odisha. In Gujarat, corporate utilities run networks in Ahmedabad, Surat and Dahej, while similar setups power Mumbai and Malegaon in Maharashtra, alongside Greater Noida and Agra in Uttar Pradesh. Rajasthan also uses this model through private franchises in Kota, Bharatpur and Bikaner. This growing sector currently features 14 licensed private distribution operations nationwide, driven largely by major industry groups like Tata Power, Torrent Power, Adani Electricity and Reliance Infrastructure.

Why do supporters favour privatisation?

Proponents argue that state-owned distribution companies are financially stressed and operationally inefficient. They believe private participation can improve billing efficiency, revenue collection, customer service and infrastructure management. They also point to Delhi and Odisha, where electricity theft and technical losses reportedly reduced after private operators entered the sector.

What happened in Delhi after privatisation?

Before privatisation, the three Delhi distribution companies recorded Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses ranging from 45 per cent to 60 per cent. After private operators such as Tata Power and Reliance took charge, losses reportedly declined significantly, improving the financial health of the utilities.

What are the key concerns raised by critics?

Critics argue that electricity networks built using public funds over several decades could gradually move under private control. They fear government-owned utilities may become uncompetitive due to subsidy obligations and social welfare commitments, eventually leaving the market dominated by a few large private players.

What happens to subsidies for farmers and poor households?

Electricity is a Concurrent List subject, allowing both the Centre and states to frame policies. At present, state governments provide subsidised or free electricity to farmers, rural consumers, economically weaker sections and certain small industries through cross-subsidy mechanisms. Critics fear these benefits may be diluted over time if commercial considerations dominate the sector.

What is the Centre's larger reform agenda?

NITI Aayog's 2021 report on power sector reforms recommended reducing subsidies, ending monopoly control by state distribution companies and encouraging competition through de-licensing. Following this, the Centre introduced the Electricity Amendment Bill in 2022. After opposition from states and employee unions, the Bill was referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee. Based on its recommendations, the Centre later released the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to allow multiple distributors to use the same network and compete for consumers.

What different privatisation models exist?

India follows three broad models. Under complete privatisation, the entire electricity distribution network is operated by private companies. In the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, private firms hold a majority 51 per cent stake while government entities retain 49 per cent ownership. The franchise model allows the government to retain ownership of the utility while outsourcing specific operations such as billing, collection or distribution management to private agencies.

What do the latest sector numbers show?

An SBI Caps report says the country's power distribution sector debt reached nearly Rs 5 lakh crore by December 2025. It estimates that if all states privatise electricity distribution, their combined fiscal deficit could reduce from 3.5 per cent to 3 per cent. Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses have declined from 25 per cent in FY2015 to 15 per cent in 2025, while the gap between the actual cost of power supply and revenue realised has narrowed from 89 paise per unit in 2021 to just 6 paise. Public and private power distribution companies together are estimated to have posted a profit of around Rs 2,700 crore in 2025.

What is the concern over renewable energy purchases?

The proposed reforms place significant emphasis on procuring electricity from renewable energy sources through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). Critics argue that since most renewable energy producers are private companies, utilities may have limited bargaining power and could be forced to buy power at higher rates. If governments continue providing subsidies to consumers while purchasing power at elevated prices, state finances could come under additional pressure.

What could happen next in Karnataka?

KERC will examine Tata Power's application and invite stakeholder views before taking a decision. The debate is likely to intensify as employee unions, consumer groups, political parties and industry stakeholders weigh the potential benefits of competition against concerns over tariffs, subsidies and public ownership of critical infrastructure.

State maintains low power deficit

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The latest data tabled in the Rajya Sabha shows that while India's overall power supply position has improved in recent years, Karnataka continues to maintain a relatively stable and efficient supply system, even as demand rises sharply. In 2022-23, Karnataka's energy requirement stood at 75,688 million units (MU), of which 75,663 MU was supplied, leaving a marginal shortfall of just 26 MU, effectively 0 per cent. In 2023-24, demand increased significantly to 94,088 MU, reflecting rapid economic and urban growth. The State managed to supply 93,934 MU, with a shortfall of 154 MU or 0.2 per cent. While this marks a slight increase in deficit in absolute terms, Karnataka continues to remain among the better-performing states in terms of meeting power demand.

Compared to several other large states, Karnataka's performance remains strong. States like Uttar Pradesh (0.8 per cent in 2022-23), Rajasthan (1.7 per cent), Bihar (2.0 per cent) and Jharkhand (as high as 7.5 per cent) reported significantly higher power deficits. Even in 2023-24, Bihar (1.4 per cent) and Jharkhand (3.8 per cent) continued to face notable shortfalls, while Karnataka kept its deficit well below 1 per cent. Among southern states, Karnataka's deficit of 0.2 per cent is slightly higher than Tamil Nadu and Telangana, which reported near-zero gaps, but remains comparable and far lower than earlier deficits seen in Andhra Pradesh (0.6 per cent in 2022-23, improved to 0.1 per cent in 2023-24). Kerala, too, has maintained minimal shortfall levels.

National trend shows improvement

At the all-India level, the power supply situation has improved. The country's total energy requirement rose from 15,13,497 MU in 2022-23 to 16,26,132 MU in 2023-24. Correspondingly, supply increased from 15,05,914 MU to 16,22,020 MU. This helped reduce the national energy deficit from 7,583 MU (0.5 per cent) to 4,112 MU (0.3 per cent), indicating better capacity addition and grid management.

Regionally, the southern grid, which includes Karnataka, performed well, reducing its deficit from 0.2 per cent to 0.1 per cent. In contrast, eastern and north-eastern regions continue to face relatively higher shortfalls, reflecting infrastructure and supply constraints.

What does it mean?

An expert said, "For Karnataka, the data highlights a key trend: demand is rising rapidly, but the supply system is largely keeping pace. The increase in consumption is driven by urbanisation, industrial growth and higher household usage, especially in and around Bengaluru."

While the current deficit remains minimal, the rise in absolute shortfall indicates the need for continued investment in power generation and distribution. Maintaining this balance will be important as demand is expected to grow further in the coming years.

Structured civic issue resolution campaigns for Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the network. These include potholes, damaged roads, uncollected garbage, illegal dumping, and other sanitation concerns. Streetlight failures and drainage-related problems form the next largest categories of complaints.

Organisers say the initiative operates through a structured civic issue resolution model. Residents raise concerns from their neighbourhoods, following which a central support team assists local volunteers in navigating administrative processes, coordinating with municipal departments, and ensuring sustained follow-up until the issue is addressed.

"The highest concentration of issues that we receive is from Kasavanahalli, Iblur and Agara wards," said Srikanth Narasimhan, founder of the Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP).

Narasimhan said the objective is to empower citizens to engage constructively with local governance systems and ensure that civic complaints do not go unaddressed.

"We have been running structured civic issue resolution campaigns across Bengaluru. Residents raise local problems, and our central team supports them through process guidance, coordination with municipal departments and continuous follow-up until resolution. This approach has helped citizens see tangible improvements in their neighbourhoods," he said.

The initiative has gained traction in several residential localities where residents often struggle to obtain timely responses from civic agencies. By documenting complaints, tracking progress and maintaining communication with government departments, shadow corporators aim to create accountability and improve civic service delivery.

9 months on, anti-drug task force still without teeth

The State Government's ambitious Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), created to crack down on the growing drug menace across the state, is yet to become fully operational nearly nine months after its launch. Conceived as a key weapon in the fight against drug networks spreading into schools, colleges and residential neighbourhoods, the task force continues to struggle with a lack of permanent leadership, inadequate staffing and, crucially, no powers to register FIRs or conduct independent investigations.

The result, officials admit, is a force largely confined to intelligence gathering while relying on other agencies for enforcement action.

The ANTF was formally launched on October 29, 2025, after the state government announced a dedicated crackdown on narcotics. However, unlike the communal harmony task force, which has a dedicated headquarters in Mangaluru, a permanent DIG-level chief and over 100 personnel, the anti-drug unit is still functioning with temporary arrangements.

BMB

Hello, anybody at the other end?

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

If you count the mobile phones in any metro coach or local tea stall, you will quickly notice that the math does not match the headcount. New data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) reveals that Karnataka has hit a tele-density of 131.44%, meaning the state now holds nearly 1.3 active mobile connections for every single resident. In sharp contrast, Bihar sits at the very bottom of the national ladder with a tele-density of just 63.79%.

This creates a fascinating statistical reality where Karnataka boasts more than double the mobile penetration of Bihar. When you subtract young children, the elderly, and those without network access, the numbers show that the average active adult in Karnataka now juggles two

mobile connections. Meanwhile, in Bihar, the reality is flipped: nearly one in three people do not even own a single SIM card. The statistical gap between the two states stands at a massive 67.65 percentage points.

Excluding the city-state data of Delhi, Karnataka ranks as the absolute leader in mobile density among all major Indian states, outperforming other highly connected regions like Kerala at 123.36% and Tamil Nadu at 107.98%. This numbers game highlights a deeper economic story. Karnataka's surplus of 31.44 extra connections per 100 people mirrors high disposable incomes and a fast-paced tech economy centered around Bengaluru.

According to TRAI data, India's total telephone subscriber base rose from 1,337.54 million in April 2026 to 1,343.10 million in May 2026, recording a monthly growth of 0.42 percent.

Urban subscriptions increased from 783.12 million to 787.71 million (0.59 percent growth), while rural subscriptions rose from 554.41 million to 555.39 million, growing at a slower 0.18 percent. During the same period, India's overall tele-density improved from 93.69 percent to 94.02 percent. Urban tele-density increased from 152.11 percent to 152.80 percent, while rural tele-density edged up from 60.74 percent to 60.83 percent.

Urban users accounted for 58.65 percent of total subscribers, while rural users made up 41.35 percent as of May 2026.

Verify every recruiter through govt database

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

they discovered that the premises had been abandoned. The recruiters had vanished, allegedly taking away nearly ₹8 crore collected from the victims.

Every year, nearly 27 lakh Indians apply for overseas employment opportunities. Data indicates that almost 50 per cent of these applicants are below the age of 30, making young graduates and early-career professionals the most vulnerable targets for recruitment scams.

The issue has particular relevance for Bengaluru, India's technology capital and one of the country's largest talent pools. Thousands of engineers, IT professionals, healthcare workers, hospitality staff and skilled technicians from Bengaluru actively seek employment opportunities in countries across Europe, the Middle East, Australia and Southeast Asia.

Recruitment consultants estimate that international job opportunities remain among the most searched career options for young professionals in the city. This growing demand has also created fertile ground for fraudulent agents who prey on candidates desperate to secure overseas placements.

"Unlike legitimate recruitment firms, scam operators often make the process appear unusually simple. They do not verify skills, conduct detailed interviews or ask candidates to undergo technical assessments. In many cases, they do not even arrange virtual interviews with the supposed employer. Instead, candidates are told that a large payment is sufficient to secure a visa, flight ticket, accommodation and a well-paying job abroad. Attractive salary packages and urgent recruitment claims are used to pressure applicants into transferring money quickly," said a police officer.

The fraud often becomes more convincing through the use of forged offer letters, fake company websites and fraudulent social media advertisements. "Some scammers impersonate multinational corporations and reputed international employers. Candidates receive documents that appear genuine at first glance, complete with logos, official-looking signatures and fabricated appointment letters. By the time victims realise that the job does not exist, the fraudsters have often disappeared," added another police officer.

Scale of the problem

Statistics reveal the scale of the problem. Official records show that 1,553 overseas recruitment fraud-related cases were reported across India in 2021. The number declined to 1,227 in 2022, followed by 1,006 in 2023 and 575 in 2024. While the downward trend appears encouraging, experts caution that these figures may not reflect the true extent of the problem. Many victims choose not to report incidents due to embarrassment, lack of awareness or fear of lengthy legal proceedings.

HR leaders are also raising concerns. K Anirudh, an HR professional, said, "Fraudsters increasingly misuse the names of reputed companies to attract unsuspecting candidates. With recruitment processes moving online, fake job advertisements and forged appointment letters have become more difficult to identify. Young graduates searching for opportunities through digital platforms are particularly vulnerable."

Authorities stress that one of the most important warning signs is the demand for excessive recruitment fees. According to government regulations, registered overseas recruitment agents are not permitted to charge candidates more than ₹30,000, excluding applicable GST, for recruitment services. Any recruiter demanding several lakh rupees upfront should immediately raise suspicion. Genuine employers typically assess qualifications, conduct interviews, verify documents and communicate transparently throughout the hiring process.

To protect job seekers, the Ministry of External Affairs has established the eMigrate system and maintains a database of approximately 3,455 registered recruitment agents across India. The list includes agencies operating in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka. Experts advise candidates to verify every recruiter through the government database before making payments, sharing personal information or signing employment agreements.

The risks are not limited to financial losses. Investigations by international agencies have revealed that some recruitment scams operating in countries such as Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos are linked to human trafficking networks.

Victims lured with promises of legitimate jobs have reportedly been forced into illegal activities, cybercrime operations or exploitative working conditions after arriving overseas. Security agencies have repeatedly warned that what begins as a recruitment fraud can sometimes escalate into a serious human trafficking case.

For Bengaluru's globally ambitious workforce, overseas opportunities continue to represent an attractive career path. However, experts believe caution has become as important as qualification. In an increasingly competitive global job market, the desire to secure a foreign placement quickly can make candidates overlook critical warning signs. The lesson emerging from cases is simple but important: no legitimate employer can guarantee an overseas job without proper screening, interviews and documentation.

Your Connect

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVES

ALWACHSEND TRAINING & PLACEMENT SERVICES PVT. LTD.
- **Business Development Manager:** 10 year's Experience
- **Marketing Manager:** 10 year's Experience
- **HR:** 10 years Experience
- **Receptionist:** 5 year's Experience

Timings: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
91873 73117 / 98456 19651
Jayanagar, Bengaluru-41.

ROUNAQH

MEDICAL

MEDICAL

WANTED FOR Hospital Pharmacy D Pharma Pharmacist Contact: Chaitanya Hospital No,80/117, P&T Colony R.T.Nagar Bangalore: 5600032, Call: 9900520357

OTHER VACANCIES

WORK FROM HOME

GOOD Monthly Income Top MNC In Blr Hiring Rtd Govt, Pvt, Defence, Bank, Teacher, VRS, NRI, IT, CA, Sr.CITIZEN, HOUSEWIFE Age: 30-70 years. Call: 98456 73443 / 70028 08202

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rajat balwanth residing at 2112 phoenix one apartment Rajajinagar b'lore 560010 have changed my name to RAAJAT BALWANTH vide affidavit date 26/06/26 before notary C Srinivasa

I, ASHU, S/o NARINDER PAL SINGH, R/o House No. 256, Street No. 1 Near Jimkhana Club 5-B, New Shastri Nagar Mandi Gobindgarh Punjab-14731. I have changed my name to ASHU ARORA vide affidavit dated: 24/06/2026 FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, MRMA SULTANA, W/o GANESH HAVANUR, R/o Platinum city apts 5th Floor, C-Block C-5-12 Peenya, near Peenya metro Station Bangalore-560022. I have changed my name to VEDICA vide affidavit dated: 24/06/2026 FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, PRIYA DARSINI BRITTO ANGELO, W/o Stephen David Mariasandanam, R/o No 474, 3rd Cross, 4th main Royal Shelters, Devarachikkanahalli, IIMB Post,Bengaluru-560076. I have changed my name to ANGELO PRIYADARSINI BRITTO vide affidavit dated: 20/06/2026 For All Future Purposes.

I Yadunatha Mooganahally Veerannagowda S/O, Veeranna Gowda M B R/o N0-24,9th Cross,near Kanteerava Studio, Parimala Nagara,nandini Layout, Bengaluru-560096 have changed my name to Yadunath Mooganahally Veerannagowda.

I Ramya D/O, Gopal Shetty R/o Slv Grand 305 4th Floor Central Excise Layout, 4th Cross, Shakti Nagar, Sri Balaji Krupa Layout, Rk Hegde Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560077 have changed my name to Ramya Shetty.

I, Ashika S, D/o Janaki B P, R/o No. U18, 9th cross, Pipeline, Malleswaram, Bengaluru, Karnataka, have changed my name to Ashika Janaki and shall henceforth be known as Ashika Janaki.

I, Nirupama Samal resident at flat # 009, Tirumala Homes, opp VVIS School, Kodipalya, Kengeri, Bangalore 560060 have changed my name to Nirupama Vijay Rao

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. All creatives marked as Advertorial, Spotlight and Promotional Features are to be treated as Advertisements. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

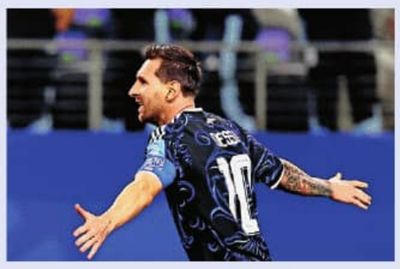
HIGHLIGHTS

Coach hails Algeria's resilience

Algeria head coach Vladimir Petkovic hailed his side's resilience after a 3-3 draw with Austria sent both teams through to the knockout stage of the World Cup, while also dismissing pre-match collusion talk.
The draw also meant Iran finished ninth among all third-placed teams and was eliminated. "I think the match was a little crazy. It sort of went beyond the limits of everyone's endurance. I think we did well to react twice. What we saw in the first half was the work of a great team, a team that has quality, a team that every day shows how good they are, " Petkovic said. Petkovic, who will now play against Switzerland, the team he coached for seven years, said he had not yet had time to process the reunion.
–IANS

No stopping Messi

Lionel Messi earned praise from Argentina teammate Giuliano Simeone after extending his FIFA World Cup scoring streak to a record seven consecutive matches in the team's 3-1 victory over Jordan in their final Group J fixture on Sunday.
Messi, who came off the bench



after starting the match among substitutes, scored Argentina's third goal to take his World Cup tally to 19. The strike also saw the star surpass Just Fontaine and Jairzinho for the longest scoring streak in World Cup history.
–IANS

It is Africa all the way

History is rewritten as nine of ten African teams qualify for Round of 32

Africa has rewritten FIFA World Cup history after an unprecedented nine of its 10 teams from the continent secured places in the Round of 32 in the 2026 tournament, smashing the previous record of just two African teams reaching the knockout stage in a single edition.

Historically, only six African countries have qualified for the knockout stage of the FIFA World Cup, with several teams making multiple appearances. The record for the most African teams qualifying in the same tournament occurred in 2014, when both Algeria and Nigeria advanced to the knockout stage during the World Cup held in Brazil.

After 17 days of competition, Morocco, South Africa, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Egypt, Algeria, Congo and Cabo Verde all booked their places in the knockout rounds. Tunisia is the only nation from the continent which failed to qualify for the knockouts from Africa.

The latest qualifiers came on Sunday in dramatic fashion as Algeria played out a 3-3 draw with Austria. Locked at 2-2 deep into stoppage time, captain Riyad Mahrez appeared to have won the match with a late strike before Austria equalised on the final play. The result was enough for both teams to progress from the group.

Democratic Republic of Congo earned a landmark 3-1 comeback victory over Uzbekistan to register the country's first-ever World Cup win and seal a maiden appearance in the knockout phase. Their reward is a daunting Round of 32 clash against England, but the Central African nation is already celebrating a historic breakthrough.

Cabo Verde continued its remarkable fairy-tale campaign with another goalless draw against Saudi Arabia and became the first nation since Chile at the 1998 World Cup to advance from the group stage without winning a match.

1. Players celebrate after DR Congo wins against Uzbekistan
2. Cape Verde's goalkeeper Vozinha also entered the World Cup record books

The Blue Sharks progressed after successive draws, having earlier impressed by holding European champions Spain before sharing points with Uruguay and Saudi Arabia.

Veteran goalkeeper Vozinha also entered the World Cup record books. At 40, he became only the third goalkeeper in tournament history, after England's Peter Shilton and Italy's Dino Zoff, to register multiple clean sheets at a World Cup after turning 40.

Morocco, the first African nation to reach a World Cup semifinal at Qatar 2022, has again looked among the tournament's strongest sides after holding Brazil to a 1-1 draw in the group stage.

While Africa celebrates an unprecedented nine knockout qualifiers, Asia will be represented in the Round of 32 by just two teams - Japan and Australia. The Socceroos had qualified for the FIFA World Cup 2026 from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) qualifiers.
–ANi

Scotland head coach steps down

Scotland head coach Steve Clarke has stepped down from his role, ending his seven-year reign, after Croatia's win over Ghana confirmed that his team's exit from the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The 62-year-old led Scotland to its first men's World Cup in 28 years – following back-to-back UEFA EURO qualifications - and started the campaign with a 1-0 victory against Haiti. Defeats to Morocco and Brazil consigned Scotland to third place in the group and elimination from the tournament.

However, despite agreeing a new four-year contract ahead of the 2026 finals kicking off, Clarke announced his resignation in the wake of a disappointing Group C campaign.

In a statement shared by the Scottish Football Association, Clarke expressed his pride in the squad's achievements during his tenure. "The most emotional part of this goodbye is for my players, without whom we wouldn't have had any of the memories that we've accumulated from 2019 until now.

"They deserve all the praise and adulation that they receive, and it was truly an honour to be called their Gaffer. Thanks for having me," he said. **–IANS**

Kane will keep the milestones coming

After bettering Gary Lineker's record for the most goals scored for the England men's national team at the FIFA World Cup, England captain Harry Kane said that he feels proud of the achievement, but he will never take such moments for granted as he is hoping for more milestones to hit in the 2026 global showpiece.

Jude Bellingham volleyed in from a corner before providing the cross for Kane to head in his 11th World Cup goal as England clinched top spot in Group L.

The goal saw the Bayern Munich striker surpass the record set by Gary Lineker 36 years ago. "It is a proud one for sure," Kane said after the match. "I spoke before the tournament about the World Cup being the biggest competition we play as professional footballers, so to get to 11 goals is a proud feeling." Russia 2018 was Kane's first global finals, and while England bowed out in the semi-finals, he joined Lineker in scooping the Golden Boot with six goals. Two more followed at Qatar 2022. **–IANS**

Injured, but fighting

Mohamed Salah is nursing a hamstring injury, with the Egyptian Football Association offering no update on whether he will be fit for their FIFA World Cup round of 32 clash against Australia.

Salah was substituted during Egypt's 1-1 draw with Iran after complaining of discomfort, and subsequent scans confirmed a hamstring strain, team doctor Mohamed Abou El Ela said in a statement released by the EFA as per Reuters.

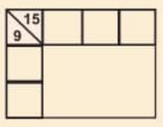
The 34-year-old has already begun a treatment programme, the statement added. Mohamed Salah scored one goal and provided two assists during Egypt's three group-stage matches as they reached the knockout stage for the first time.

Meanwhile, regular left-back Ahmed Fatouh has suffered a hamstring tear and is unlikely to recover in time for the round of 32 clash against Australia, according to the Egyptian Football Association.

Centre-back Mohamed Abdelmonem, who arrived at the FIFA World Cup after an injury-hit season with Ligue 1 side Nice, sustained a severe ankle bruise and was substituted after just 14 minutes against Iran. **–ANI**

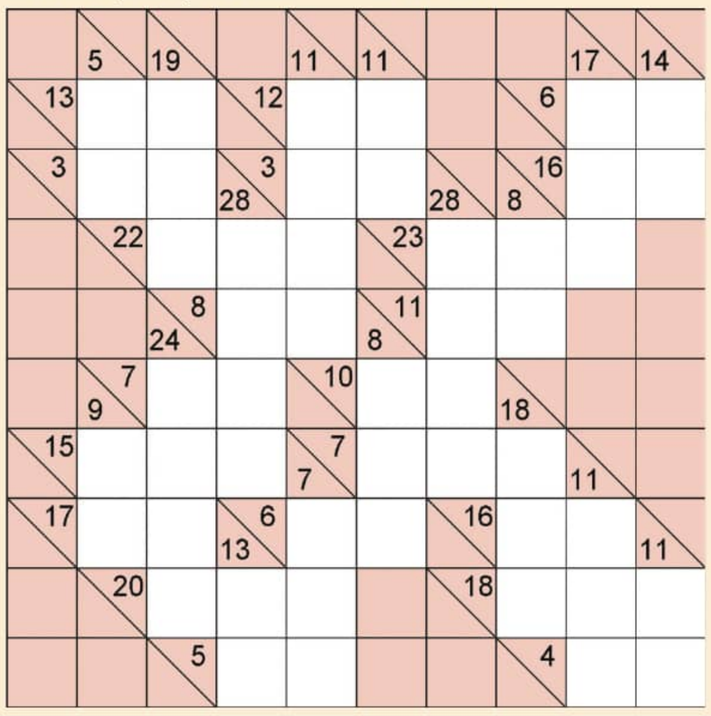
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

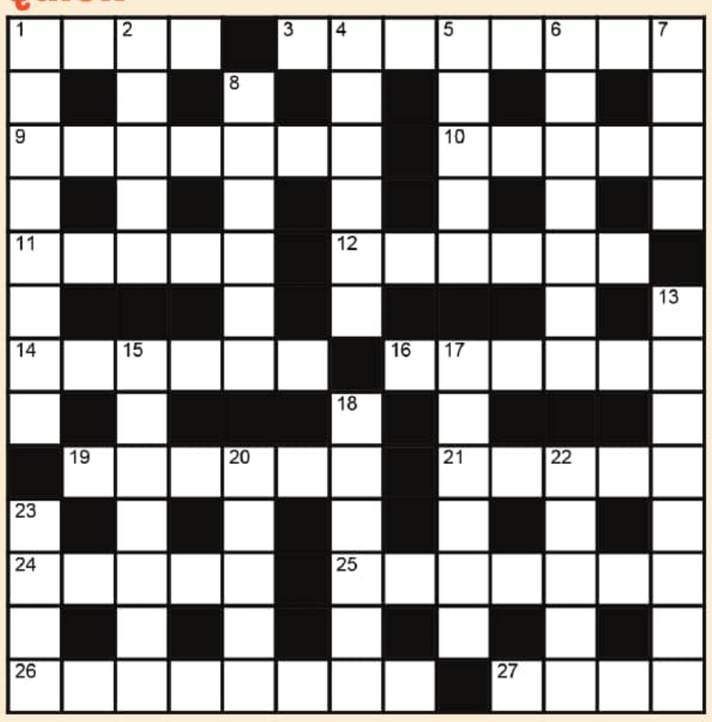


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Israeli carrier (2,2)
3 Calls into question (8)
9 Run forward with the ball in control in hockey or football (7)
10 Fatuous (5)
11 Mountain chain (5)
12 Unexpected (6)
14 Distrusts (6)
16 Physical injury (6)
19 Amazon's e-book reader (6)
21 Clan (5)
24 Legal defence (5)
25 Tells (7)
26 Re-attempt (3,5)
27 Betting price (4)

DOWN

1 The Spanish city of gold? (2,6)
2 Flu type (5)
4 Nervous or anxious (6)
5 Wielded vigorously (5)
6 French castle (7)
7 Leak through (4)
8 Wretched, contemptible (6)
13 Strokes or fondles (8)
15 ___ Building: Skyscraper on M G Road (7)
17 Confirm or accept by formal consent (6)
18 Castor and Pollux (6)
20 Passing away (5)
22 Owing money? (2,3)
23 Pulled tight (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS P

G UGJK G UMTM UGFK JRIM
RH FKM UGEP QMRQEM
FKVF TDA GA FKM URRPJ,
VAP LARU ARFKGAS VWRDF
VBBRIQEGJKIMAFJ!

Linemaro

How you doin'? (Joey style) [For the uninitiated, watch Friends]

Mindchow

There is nothing so stupid as an educated man, if you get him off the thing he was educated in

Joke of the day

The English contribution to world cuisine – the chip

Loop

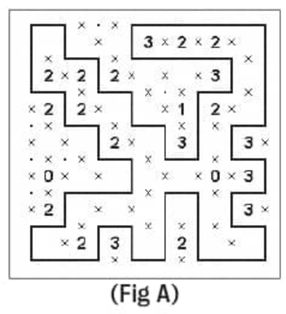
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

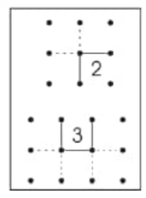
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

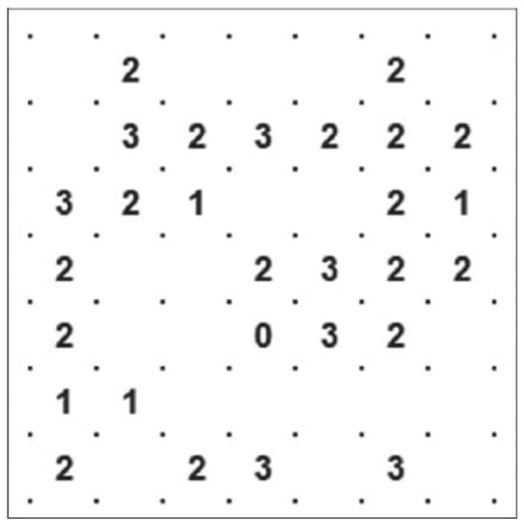
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



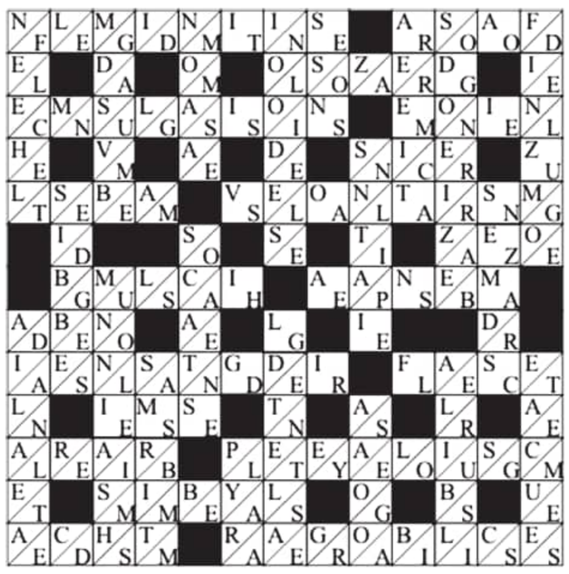
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2 B	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

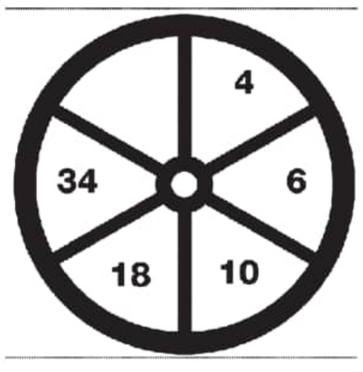
1 Bob at; 6 It hen;
7 Naris; 8 Tigon;
9 On Gay

DOWN

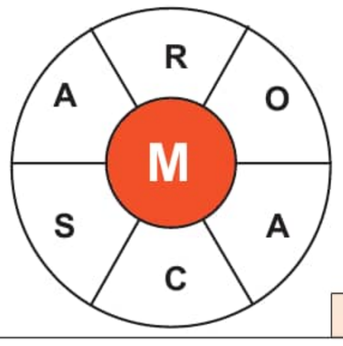
1 Tiara; 2 H Bang;
3 Boing; 4 No ion;
5 Et sty

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the empty segment?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4	6				2	5	
5	3			6			8	7
			5		2			
		1	6		4	9		
	2						3	
		7	3		5	1		
			8		6			
7	5			9			4	8
	1	8				7	9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

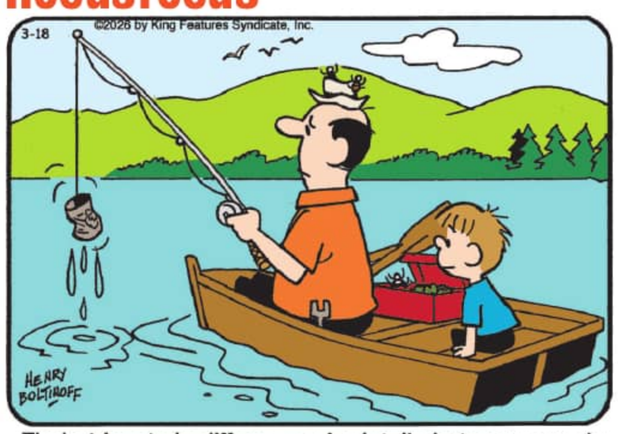
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 16
4 6 7 7

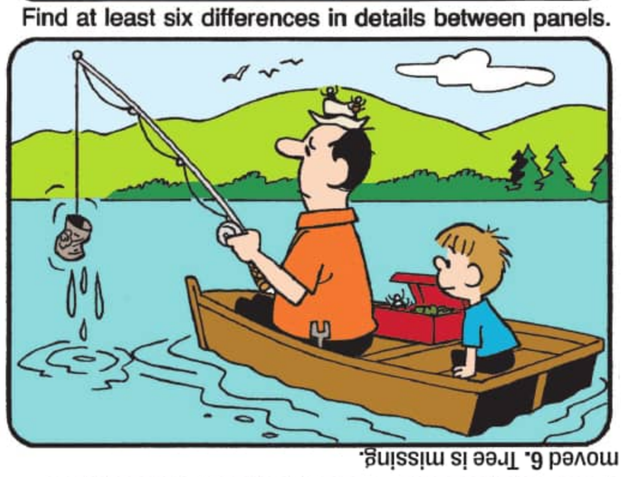
Medium = 13
1 1 2 7

Hard = 23
4 6 6 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



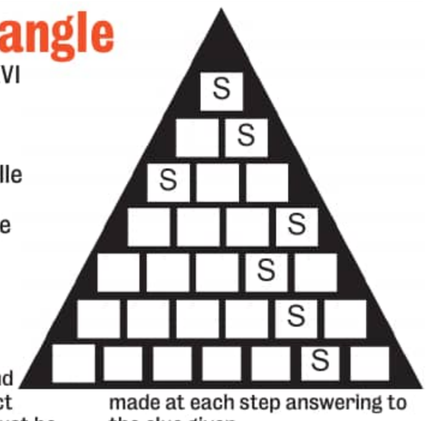
Differences: 1. Oar is missing. 2. Can is reversed 3. Man has more hair. 4. Cloud is moved. 5. Mountain is moved 6. Tree is missing.

Riddler

Mr. Ixolite was in Mexico on his holidays and was looking to try the hottest chili he could find. He went into a restaurant and ordered a hot one. After the fire in his mouth had been put out, and he sat there gasping for breath, the waiter came up to him and said, "Excuse me, Senor Ixolite, we are very sorry, but we accidentally gave you the wrong chili. We gave you the mild one instead of this very hot one. Would you like it?" MrIxolite paled, but being unable to speak, grabbed a napkin and wrote out the following rebus: Hose A) Hose B) Way Hose C) Way What was Mr. Ixolite trying to say?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number XVI
2 Less more
3 Knighthood title
4 Affectations
5 Respond to reveille
6 Cook in fat
7 Pessimistic, in the stock market

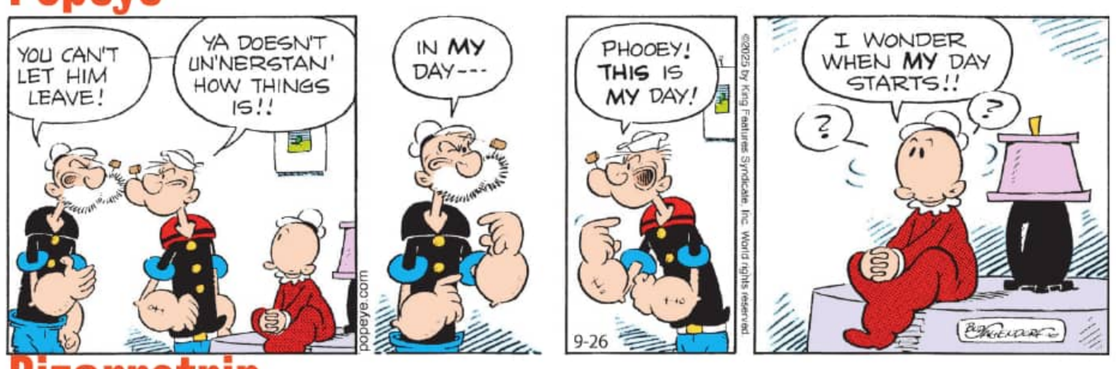


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

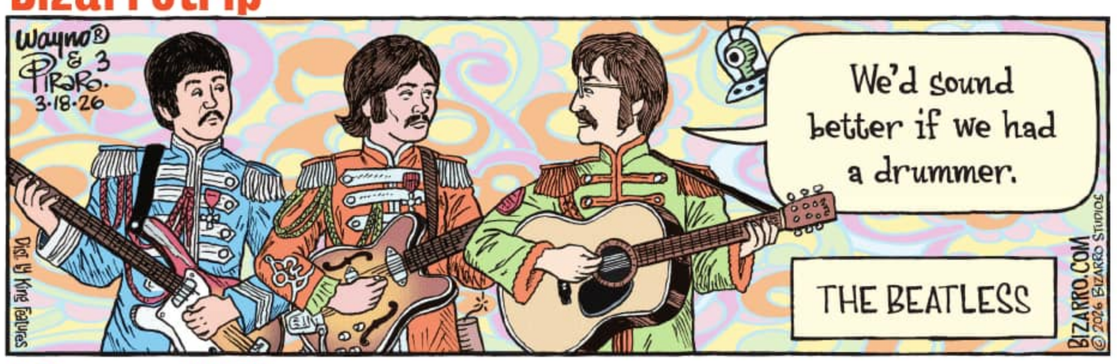
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

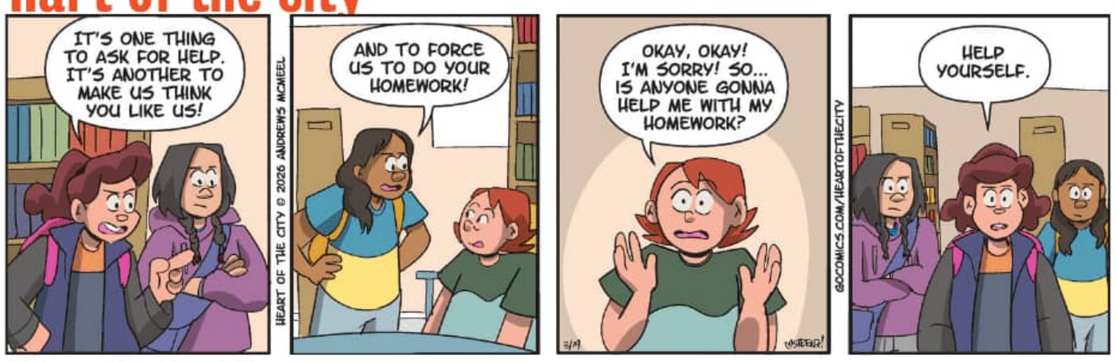


Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


IT'S ONE THING TO ASK FOR HELP. IT'S ANOTHER TO MAKE US THINK YOU LIKE US!
AND TO FORCE US TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK!
OKAY, OKAY! I'M SORRY! SO... IS ANYONE GONNA HELP ME WITH MY HOMEWORK?
HELP YOURSELF.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

'MY SEARCH FOR THE SPECIAL MILTON CANIFF BRISTOL BOARD TOOK ME TO ALLEN'S ART SHOP...'
ARTIST SUPPLIES & PAPERS
ALLEN'S ART SHOP
'I COULD ONLY AFFORD TWO SHEETS...'
SALE
BUT IT WAS A START!
3-18
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your charisma is absolutely magnetic today, attracting exciting professional offers and romantic admirers alike. Step boldly into the spotlight; your unique talents deserve to be widely seen and celebrated. A prosperous financial phase begins, yielding returns on past investments. Keep your physical energy balanced by avoiding excessive caffeine and choosing grounding, nutrient-dense meals instead.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Influential people may notice and support your work today, bringing exciting career growth naturally. Recognition from important figures helps attract promotions, financial rewards, confidence, and professional advancement while validating your dedication beautifully today.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today encourages relaxation, enjoyment, and freedom from unnecessary worries completely. Treat yourself kindly, enjoy favourite activities, and embrace simple pleasures wholeheartedly. Peaceful energy surrounds you beautifully, creating happiness, comfort, and emotional balance throughout.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Recent situations may have weakened your confidence temporarily, though your talents remain incredibly valuable and unique. Releasing self-doubt helps restore motivation beautifully while reminding you that success continues moving steadily forward confidently.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
A major professional milestone deserves celebration today because your efforts have created meaningful progress successfully. Recognizing achievements proudly strengthens confidence beautifully while encouraging continued ambition, gratitude, excitement, and emotional fulfillment regarding growing success.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Avoid escaping personal challenges today because meaningful support already surrounds you naturally. Speaking honestly with someone trustworthy helps create solutions, emotional comfort, guidance, and renewed confidence while strengthening important relationships and personal understanding beautifully.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Partnerships and teamwork bring stronger results today than handling everything independently. Reaching out to skilled people helps improve projects beautifully while creating supportive connections, collaboration opportunities, personal growth, and lasting friendships unexpectedly too.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Trying something professionally different today may open exciting opportunities for growth and discovery naturally. Exploring unfamiliar skills or departments helps prevent monotony while encouraging creativity, ambition, adaptability, and greater long-term career satisfaction beautifully.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Protect your vulnerability carefully today because certain people may misuse personal information unfairly. While emotional honesty remains valuable generally, selective communication helps maintain emotional safety, stronger boundaries, peace of mind, and healthier relationships currently.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Excitement and joy return strongly today, helping every situation feel lighter and more enjoyable naturally. Your positive energy inspires others beautifully while encouraging fun experiences, emotional upliftment, meaningful social connections, and unforgettable moments throughout today.

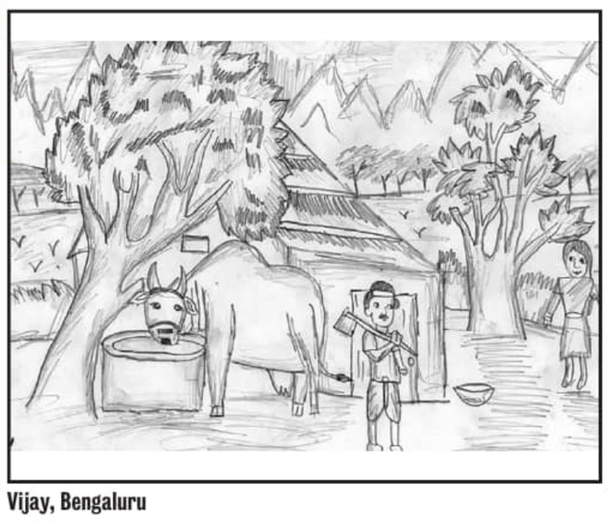
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Meditation and quiet reflection help calm your overwhelmed mind beautifully today. Releasing constant worries and mental pressure restores emotional clarity naturally while encouraging healthier thinking, inner peace, stronger focus, and improved overall wellbeing moving forward.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Jealousy and unnecessary grudges only damage meaningful relationships today. Choosing maturity, understanding, and emotional balance helps strengthen connections beautifully while encouraging healthier communication, forgiveness, personal growth, and stronger trust with surrounding people currently.

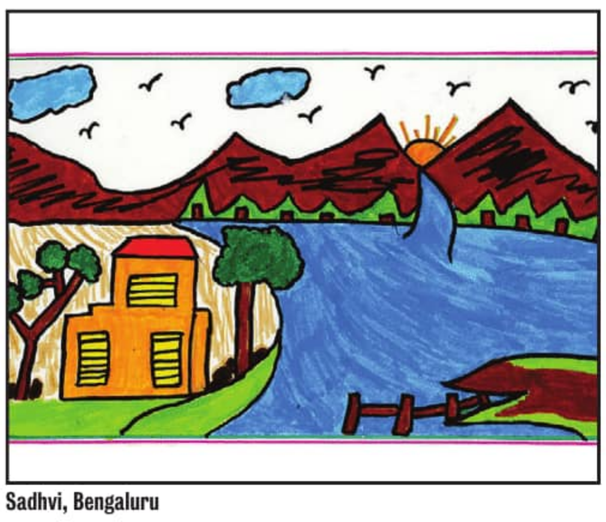
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Holding onto painful memories prevents emotional healing and personal growth today. Releasing the past gently helps create space for hope, happiness, new beginnings, and exciting opportunities waiting ahead within your future journey beautifully.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Vijay, Bengaluru



Sadhvi, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
[(X÷10)×6]=12-9.6
[(X÷10)×6]=2.4
(X÷10)=2.4/6
(X÷10)=0.4
X=0.4*10
X=4

BULL'S EYE
aroma, coma, cram, roam, SARCOMA, scram

STRIKE OUT

F	E	M	I	N	I	N	E	■	R	O	A	D	■	■
L	■	A	■	O	■	O	Z	E	D	■	E	■	■	■
E	M	U	L	S	I	O	N	■	M	O	I	L	■	■
E	■	V	■	E	■	D	■	S	I	R	■	U	■	■
T	E	E	M	■	S	L	A	N	T	I	N	G	■	■
■	■	D	■	S	■	E	■	I	■	Z	E	E	■	■
■	G	U	L	C	H	■	A	P	N	E	■	A	■	■
D	E	N	■	A	■	G	■	E	■	R	■	■	■	■
I	S	L	A	N	D	E	R	■	F	A	S	T	■	■
L	■	E	M	S	■	N	■	S	■	L	■	A	■	■
A	R	A	B	■	P	T	Y	A	L	I	S	M	■	■
E	■	S	I	B	Y	L	■	G	■	B	■	E	■	■
E	C	H	T	■	A	E	R	O	B	I	C	S	■	■

FAST FIVE

A	B	B	O	T
I	N	G	O	T
R	A	N	I	S
T	H	I	N	E
A	G	O	N	Y

RIDDLER
NO WAY JOSE! (No Way at Hose A)

QUICK

E	L	A	L	■	S	U	S	P	E	C	T	S	■	■
L	■	S	■	A	■	N	■	L	■	H	■	E	■	■
L	A	■	O	■	O	Z	E	D	■	E	■	■	■	■
A	■	O	■	O	N	■	M	O	I	L	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	A	N	G	E	■	J	■	E	■	T	■	■	■	■
O	■	A	■	C	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	■	■	■
D	O	■	B	T	S	■	T	R	A	U	M	A	■	■
O	■	■	■	■	■	G	■	■	■	■	■	R	■	■
K	I	N	D	L	E	■	M	■	I	■	N	S	■	■
T	■	L	■	Y	■	I	■	I	N	F	O	R	M	S
A	L	I	B	I	■	I	N	■	Y	■	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
T	R	Y	A	G	A	I	N	■	O	D	D	S	■	■

QUOTE UNCODE
I wish I were with some of the wild people that run in the woods, and know nothing about accomplishments!

MENSA PUZZLE
66. As you move clockwise double the preceding number and subtract 2.

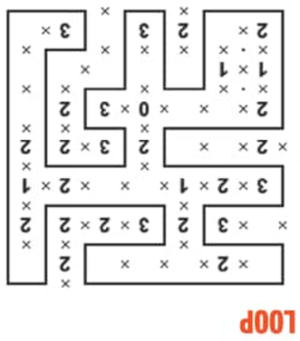
SUDOKU

1	4	6	7	3	8	2	5	9
5	3	2	1	6	9	4	8	7
8	7	9	5	4	2	3	6	1
3	8	1	6	2	4	9	7	5
4	2	5	9	1	7	8	3	6
9	6	7	3	8	5	1	2	4
2	9	4	8	7	6	5	1	3
7	5	3	2	9	1	6	4	8
6	1	8	4	5	3	7	9	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, Is, Sir, Airs, Arise, Praise, Bearish.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 7 + 7 − 4 = 16
Medium
2 x 7 − 1 x 1 = 13
Hard
4 x 6 − 6 + 5 = 23

LOOP



KAKURO

Volume No 19, Issue No 127 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore–560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon–responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Birthday wishes
Dhanush and Kriti Sanon penned lovely birthday wishes for the 'Tere Ishk Mein' director Aanand L Rai as he turned a year older on Sunday

When Aish talked about friendship with Rani

Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan had once opened up about her friendship with Rani Mukerji.

In a throwback interview, the 'Taal' actress spoke warmly about her bond with Rani, revealing how the two grew close while touring together for nearly 45 days on an international concert tour. Aishwarya recalled how their bond strengthened during an international world tour.

During her old appearance in the show "Jeena Isi Ka Naam Hai," Aishwarya revealed that spending nearly 45 days together while traveling, performing, and staying with their families helped them develop a close and comfortable equation. The 'Devdas' actress also dis- missed the perception that actresses in the same industry cannot be friends, describing Rani as "very warm" and "very friendly."

Aishwarya said, "Two years ago, actually, we had met once. She's also a very warm girl. Very friendly. Very easy, also. We've got no hang-ups. It's really, really easy. And we were on the world tour together, our first world tour together, doing shows." "During the shows, we got to live together for virtually 45 days. We were working, we were staying together, and the bond grew from there. We were with our families. This was two and a half years ago, and we've kept in touch ever since and through it all. I mean, I know people find it very tough to believe that actresses in the same world can have all kinds of problems. But no."

Rani Mukerji was also expected to appear on the show alongside Aishwarya, but she was unable to attend due to ill health. **–IANS**

Saif talks about inclusive outlook towards religion

Just keep the faith

Saif Ali Khan has opened up about raising his children with an inclusive outlook towards religion, revealing that discussions about faith are a regular part of family life. Born to legendary cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, popularly known as Tiger Pataudi, and veteran actor Sharmila Tagore, Saif comes from an interfaith family. He later had two interfaith marriages himself— first with Amrita Singh, with whom he shares two children, and later with Kareena Kapoor, with whom he has sons Taimur Ali Khan and Jehangir Ali Khan.

Speaking at We The Women's London edition, Saif said he enjoys discussing religion with his children, while admitting that he isn't deeply religious himself.

"It's a conversation I love having with them. Because I myself am not the most religious of people. My mother taught me, and I taught my kids, that there's one god and he has many names. It's as simple as that. You worship him in different places. And if your religion talks about love and forgiveness to your fellow men, then that's it," Saif said.

The actor also reflected on his childhood, saying he was exposed to different faiths while studying in Christian schools. "I've grown up in churches, in schools which start with being at chapel. I've tried bunking that by saying I'm from a different religion, and then they got a maulvi to come and talk to us. That didn't work," Saif recalled. "But it was quite a Christian upbringing. The kids would say the prayer, followed by prayers of other religions. They'd celebrate Christmas as much as Diwali," he added. **–ETimes**

Connect with viewers

Main Vaapas Aaunga' continues to enjoy a successful run in theatres, with audiences embracing its emotional story and characters. Adding to the celebrations, actors Sharvari and Vedang Raina recently attended a special screening of the film, where they watched it alongside moviegoers.

Following the screening, Sharvari took to social media to express her gratitude to everyone who has supported the film. She wrote, "Some stories don't end when the credits roll, They live on in every emotion shared, every conversation started, every reel made with love and every heart that chose to carry Jiya and Keenu a little further. You made our film your own and in doing so, you helped it find more hearts every single week. We are truly blessed. This recreation of your trend is our way of saying thank you (sic)."

Directed by Imtiaz Ali, the film also ' features Diljit Dosanjh, Naseeruddin Shah. **–ETimes**

When Jesse Pinkman almost died

Hollywood actor Aaron Paul, who is known for his iconic role of drug dealer Jesse Pinkman in the legendary series 'Breaking Bad', was in for a shock after shooting for the pilot episode.

The actor recently appeared on 'Keep Secrets' podcast, and said that he was told by the show's creator Vince Gilligan that his character was supposed to die in the first season of the show.

However, the makers decided to give Jesse Pinkman a sturdy arc.

He said, "When we shot the pilot, the arc of the first season was Jesse Pinkman introducing Walt to the drug world. Pinkman dies and then Walt is led to go out for revenge into the second season".

Bryan Cranston chipped in, as he said, "I wish it would have happened that way". Aaron Paul further mentioned, "While we were shooting, Vince pulled me over during lunch. He's like, I want to tell you something".

Bryan Cranston once again gave a solid punchline, as he said, "I want you to start making the lunch for all the people". Aaron Paul went on. "Vince said, 'You're about to die. I want you to know the original plan was to kill you off at the end of the season'. My heart just starts pounding. What do you mean? When am I going to die? He's like, 'No, no, no, you're not going to die'". "When we shot the pilot and we saw what you and Brian were doing together, we just loved that dynamic so much. So when they got picked up, they decided we're no longer going to have him die," he added. **–IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Suspense thriller

The muhurat function of KA-18 was held at Sri Panchamukhi Ganapathi Temple on Saturday. ATM Manju, who hails from Hiremagalur, is supporting the movie under the banner Appaji Productions, apart from playing the protagonist in the film directed by Mohan Chikki. Sonia Rawat from Uttarakhand will play a guest dancer and also co-produce the movie that is expected to be made in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi.

"The concept of the movie is by ATM Manju. The movie revolves around two characters. It is about the incidents that take place between 6 pm and 6 am. We plan to complete the filming in a single schedule in and around Chikkamagaluru," said Chikki.

ATM Manju said he used to participate in cultural programmes during his college days. "I visited Kemmangundi with my father in 2000. An incident from Kemmangundi inspired me to make this movie," he said.

Tanisha Kuppanda said she will play Ankita in the movie.

Nagabandham on July 3

Nagabandham: The Secret of Treasure, a multi-lingual movie that has created curiosity among movie enthusiasts, is scheduled to arrive in theatres on July 3. Its trailer and audio have already become popular. Virat Karrna plays the protagonist while Naba Natesh is paired opposite him. Abhisekh Nama is the director.

"I made my debut as a heroine in Sandalwood with Vajrakaya in 2015. I have been busy with other language movies. Now, I have the opportunity to interact with media persons after a gap of 10 years. Though my character's name in Vajrakaya and Nagabandham is the same, the roles are entirely different. Director Abhisekh Nama has selected a good story. Though its trailer looks like a devotional movie, it is an entertainer. I performed a classical dance in the movie," said Natesh.

Nagabandham is Karna's second film as a hero after Telugu movie Pedda Kapu 1. "My character has two shades. A huge set that looks like Thiruvananthapuram Temple is a highlight in the movie," he said.